

Salt Lake Democrat.

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ALFRED YOUNG, - - - EDITOR.

AGITATED.

The church papers continue to be agitated and exercised over the continuing offense of construction of the cohabitation clause of the Edmunds Act. Well they may be agitated in still think that those who break the law have a right to do so, and that to punish them for so doing is a hardship and shows great venom on the part of those officers whose duty it is to enforce the law. It is rather a noticeable and remarkable fact that not a solitary Mormon paper has ever once suggested the idea that perhaps it would be as well if not better for the Mormon people to consider the other side of this Utah question, that is, the side of the law. They have never suggested this idea much less the idea that, perhaps after all, the law may be right and they wrong. Form the very start the Mormon people and press have assumed that the law was not only harsh but unconstitutional, and that they were right and could not be wrong. In all countries where there is any important question to be discussed and settled, all parties who are at all interested in it discuss the pros and cons and then make up their minds as regards the matter. The people of Utah make up their minds without any consideration of the pros and cons or anything else. On the assumption that the Mormons are right and the law wrong, still the fact remains that the Mormons are settled in a country with a government and laws, and that some of those laws forbid certain practices in which the Mormons indulge as a religious rite. We believe it is very properly a question of morals and ethics whether any people have a right to claim the protection and hospitality of a country and at the same time disobey some of the laws of that country, laws which were enacted for the express purpose of preserving the unity of the family as the basis of the State. If the claim of the Mormon people that the Constitution is an inspired instrument is true, then every part and parcel of that instrument is inspired, and the methods which it employs for the determination of all questions in regard thereto are likewise inspired. The method adopted by this instrument for the determination of the constitutionality of any law passed by Congress was the institution of the Supreme Court, and such other courts as Congress in its discretion might see fit to establish. Congress, in accordance with the power given it by this inspired instrument, passed a law for the suppression of polygamy and unlawful cohabitation, and this law has been tested as to its constitutionality by the very method which the Constitution provided, and found to be constitutional. The law of which so much complaint is made in Utah on account of its harshness and unconstitutionality is inspired, as it was made in accordance with a power given in an inspired instrument and was shown to be so made by the only method known to this inspired instrument for determining the constitutionality of a law. But on the other hand it is claimed by the people of Utah that God likewise inspired the practice of polygamy, the very thing for which this inspired law was enacted to suppress. Surely here is an apt illustration of the saying that "God moves in a mysterious way." There is but one way in which these conflicting inspirations can be reconciled, which is for the Government to submit the constitutionality of the laws to the decision of the Mormon church or for the Mormon church to submit the decision of these questions to the Supreme Court, and then abide by that decision. Such a course of action on the part of the people here would soon lead to a complete and satisfactory solution of the much vexed Utah question. It would simply be a recognition of the doctrine that all good citizens must obey the law until by legitimate agitation the law, if obnoxious, can be repealed. The people of Utah are agitated simply because they desire to persist in violating the law, and for no other reason. Supposing the Government were to allow the people hereto do as they choose on the ground that they claim a religious right to do so, and suppose that the same number of Catholics that there are Mormons in Utah were to come here and claim the same religious right to do as they choose that the Mormon people do. Either party could justly invoke the Constitution as authorizing them to act according to the dictates of their own conscience. Now, would not the Territory of Utah very soon be made a fit place for the reception of the Savior and the ushering in of the reign of peace which is to last a thousand years? And as the war of extermination between the Mormons and Catholics for the rights of conscience and the establishment of religious freedom went on, it is more than likely that the more zealous Methodists would shout hallelujah and say that the wicked were being swept from off the face of the earth. The contemplation of such a condition of things is pleasant and really makes a man believe that all who would engage in such a scene are after all but carrying out the precepts and following the example of Him who, when dying upon the cross, said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

For the interests of humanity and civilization it is far better that the Government continue the control of this Territory and the enforcement of the law than that any church should be permitted to dictate in political affairs and say what laws are constitutional and what are not.

A HARD DUTY.

It is a hard and painful duty that devolves upon us this morning when we are compelled to correct an error, a gross error, an error plainly arising from prejudice and ignorance, which appears in this morning's *Tribune*. In speaking editorially of Phil Robinson, who was in this city some two or three years ago, the *Tribune*, "the journal which holds the foremost place among newspapers for a thousand miles in either direction," says that "when Phil Robinson was here he was lodged in the Lion House." When Phil Robinson was here he was not lodged in the Lion House, and it is really surprising that a man who has been in Utah "fully a quarter of a century" should be so grossly ignorant of a thing so universally known and so commonly talked about as the residence of Phil Robinson while in Salt Lake City. This is especially surprising and mortifying when it is remembered that it is the peculiar province of the *Tribune* to know to the doting of an iso to speak all about Mormon affairs and the movements of all who come to Utah and to a greater or less extent associate with the Mormons.

If the editor of the *Tribune* did not know where Phil Robinson resided when in Salt Lake City, why did he say that he resided at the Lion House? He is certainly aware of the position that the Lion House occupies in Mormon annals, and being so aware did he wish to create a prejudice and disseminate a false impression among the readers of his paper? If such was his motive, surely it was not a very honorable or commendable one. He did not know where Phil Robinson lodged while here, why did he presume to say that the Lion House was one place more than another? If, on the other hand, the editor of the *Tribune* did know where Phil Robinson lodged while here he knew that he did not lodge in the Lion House, and for him to say that Robinson did lodge in the Lion House was for him to deliberately and maliciously utter a falsehood, and for a base and sinister purpose.

But it is characteristic of the *Tribune* to assume that its prejudices and dislikes are facts, and to give them forth to the world as such. It is that very characteristic which destroys the influence that it would otherwise have. We have frequently heard the remark made by leading Mormons that the *Tribune* defeats its very object and aim by its too frequent mingling of actual facts with spurious facts. Had the *Tribune* half the power of discernment which it thinks it has, it would be the easiest thing in the world for it to sort the actual facts from the spurious facts, and thereby be enabled to make its arguments without the fatal flaw that usually marks them. When a man says that a horse is sixteen feet high and for the sake of consistency and false pride furiously adheres to his statement, such a course may cause men to admire his firmness, but they will also doubt and condemn his judgment. In conclusion, we would suggest that frequently the *Tribune* would make faster headway by going a little slower.

ROUMELIA.

The insurrection in Roumelia still continues to be the chief topic in political circles in Europe. The probabilities are that while Russia may not have instigated the insurrection she is now directing it, and directing it in the interests of Russia. From Philippopolis comes the word that Alexander of Bulgaria has telegraphed the Czar that he will abdicate in favor of any successor whom the Czar may nominate, provided that Russian officers in the Bulgarian service be allowed to remain in the Bulgarian army, and that Russia will guarantee the unity of Bulgaria and Roumelia. That offer is but the preliminary to a *soup d'etat*, for Alexander's career as Prince of Bulgaria shows him to be a mere Russian puppet.

The principality of Bulgaria was created by the treaty of Berlin, and by Article I of that treaty it is provided that Bulgaria shall "be constituted an autonomous and tributary principality, under the suzerainty of his Imperial Majesty the Sultan. It will have a Christian government and a national militia." Alexander, Prince of Bulgaria, is a cousin of the Emperor of Russia, and it is but natural that he should be for Russia rather than for Bulgaria. His history shows this throughout. In 1872 he was elected hereditary Prince of Bulgaria by the Constitutional Assembly, but it only took him two years in which to come to the conclusion that he was mightier than the Assembly. In 1881 he suspended the Constitution and dissolved the National Assembly, and by the use of the military power and the fabrication of the returns, he procured the election of a Grand National Assembly, the body to whom was especially intrusted the adoption of any changes in the Constitution, and this Assembly, the creation of Alexander, by a vote on July 13, 1881, endowed the Prince with autocratic legislative and executive powers for a period of seven years. Such, in brief, is the history of Prince Alexander I of Bulgaria, and quite a history for a man who was born in 1858.

The Treaty of Berlin which created the new principality of Bulgaria, left Eastern Roumelia under the control of the Turks, although the Roumelians were as much Christian as the Bulgarians, and ever since they have kept up a continual agitation for incorporation into Bulgaria. The present insurrection is but the breaking out anew of this old agitation, and doubtless there would be no hesitation on the part of the Powers which drew up and signed the Treaty of Berlin to agree to the desired incorporation, but for the fact that it would substantially give away Turkish territory to Russia, for Alexander is all the while playing into Russia's hands. The expressed willingness of the Prince to resign if the Russian officers in the Bulgarian service are all allowed to remain clearly shows this. Russia may have a slight regard for the Bulgarians or Roumelians, because of the Chris-

ian population in the two countries, but its regard for them on that ground is only slight. Nothing is so disagreeable and annoying to Russia as the presence near her of a principality with an elective representative Constituent Assembly, not even the presence of the infidel. Such an assembly is a continual protest against Russia's autocratic and despotic methods of government, and is an acknowledgment of the right of the citizens of a country to participate in its government. To this dislike can be traced the despotic conduct of Prince Alexander in 1881 more than to any other cause. All the civilized world would doubtless be glad to see Bulgaria and Roumelia united if such union would insure an independent national government to them, but it would be a doubtful good if they are to be united merely to become a Russian province.

News comes from Dublin that Mary Anderson inflicted a slight wound upon herself while playing Juliet. The telegram states that there was a slight sensation created in the audience on account of the accident, but that she came before the curtain and assured the audience that the wound was trifling. Such telegrams look very much like cheap-trap advertising and are much of the same nature as the stealing of diamonds from actresses and their wonderful escapes from fires. If Mary Anderson needs any such advertising to help her along surely her reputation is much in advance of her merit. Such information is about as important and interesting as the announcements made each morning in the English press that "that the Queen sat under the beeches in Windsor Park for two whole minutes yesterday." If Mary has wounded herself in the breast she should remember that she has wounded many others in the breast, and now she can appreciate their feelings.

A NEW YORK ORATOR.

Lucius Van Allen, the Man With the Rectangular Mouth.

The Democrats may well dread the appearance of one Republican orator in the campaign. This is Lucius L. Van Allen, who was a proxy from the Eleventh district during the meeting of the committee. It is understood that Mr. Van Allen will go upon the stump and speak throughout the various parts of the State. I have had the pleasure of hearing all of the great orators of this country and have heard all of our leading public men discourse, but I never, in all my experience, heard anything resembling the eloquence and oratory of Mr. Van Allen. He is nearly six feet in height. His figure is thin and delicate, his clothes thin. His hair is very large and set quite a small neck. His forehead is broad and bulging, faintly shaded by thin, sandy blonde hair. His eyes are a watery blue. His nose is straight, while his mouth is hidden under a drooping mustache. He wears the most enormous standing shirt collar known to the trade. It encircles his narrow neck threatening his ears and jaws. Around the collar is twisted a black satin string. His waistcoat is cut very low, giving a very broad expanse of shirt bosom. This shirt bosom rises and falls with the movement of Mr. Van Allen's sentences, its glaring whiteness and aggressive size forcing themselves on one, so that at times Mr. Van Allen looks like an animal in full locomotion. He is the only orator in the United States who is usually squared at the corners when he is talking. He has a voice which is dull, booming roar. When he opens his rectangular-shaped mouth and begins, there is so much grace and impressive swing about the man that you feel impelled to listen to him. His style of oratory borders continually upon the sublime. He discusses the most trivial subject as if it were the gloomiest of tragedies. And yet he never says anything. He is so completely charmed with his own voice as to forget that something else is required of a speaker than the stringing of words together. He is the very ideal of oratorial noise. If his little speech the other day, kindly granting the Mugwump permission to return to the Republican fold, could have been printed as it was delivered, it would have made the funniest topic for this class of Republicans to read that day. —*T. C. Crawford in New York World.*

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